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It is noted that Claim 1 calls for the ridge to be "**integrally** formed within said at least one side wall" and that Claim 2 similarly calls for the ridge to be "**integrally** formed within said side wall". This is materially different to what is disclosed in Lydic wherein Fig. 10 clearly shows a longitudinal beam 50 that is attached to the interior of the wall. In other words, it does not form part of the wall. It appears that this longitudinal beam is designed to add strength to the wall portion and is particularly located about a seam 48 in the wall. Thus, beam 50 is not integrally formed within the wall as called for by the present claims.

The integral ridge portion of the invention defined by the claims has two functions, namely, containing the material and also acting as a reinforcement element for the side wall. This ridge achieves a much lighter container than the prior art which relied on reinforcing members as shown in Lydic, for example. The invention thus provides for a more economical container. By being integrally formed within the side wall, the ridge portion of the present invention provides a lighter container while still reinforcing the walls without the necessity to add heavy reinforcing members. Thus, the present invention seeks to improve on conventional containers which require additional reinforcing members to strengthen wall portions.

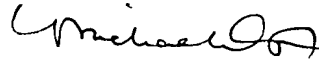
In view of the above, it is clear that Claims 1 and 2 and the claims dependent thereon are not anticipated by Lydic nor would they be obvious in view of Lydic.

Applicants submit that the filing of this Amendment is timely, January 19, 2002, being a Saturday, January 21, 2002, being a Federal Holiday. However, in the event Applicants have overlooked the need for an extension of time, payment of fee, or additional payment of fee, Applicants hereby petition therefor and authorize that any charges be made to Deposit Account No. 02-0385, Baker & Daniels.

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The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number noted below if such would be of assistance in expediting prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,



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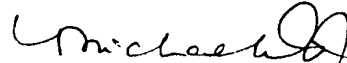
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Request for Approval of
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MICHAEL D. SMITH, REG. NO. 40,181

NAME OF REGISTERED REPRESENTATIVE



SIGNATURE

January 21, 2002

DATE

ATTACHMENT I
VERSION SHOWING CHANGES MADE TO CLAIMS

10. (Twice Amended) A container as claimed in claim [1] 6 wherein said first wall portion extends from said side wall at an angle ϕ_1 , wherein:

$$\phi_1 \leq \phi_2 - \phi_3 - 90^\circ$$

where:

ϕ_1 - is the angle between said side wall and said first wall portion,

ϕ_2 - is the angle said container is rotated during unloading of said container, and

ϕ_3 - is the natural angle of repose of material to be transported in said container.

11. (Twice Amended) A container as claimed in claim [1] 6 wherein said first wall portion extends from said side wall at an angle ϕ_1 , wherein:

$$\phi_1 \leq \phi_2 - \phi_3 - \phi_4 - 90^\circ$$

where:

ϕ_1 - is the angle between said side wall and said first wall portion,

ϕ_2 - is the angle said container is rotated during unloading of said container,

ϕ_3 - is the natural angle of repose of material to be transported in said container,

and

ϕ_4 - is the cohesion of said material to be transported when wet.

12. (Twice Amended) A container as claimed in claim [1] 6 adapted for unloading of material through the base of the container, and wherein said first wall portion extends from said side wall at an angle ϕ_1 , wherein:

$$\phi_1 \leq 90^\circ - \phi_3$$

ϕ_1 - is the angle between said side wall and said first wall portion, and

ϕ_3 - is the natural angle of repose of material to be transported in said container.

13. (Twice Amended) A container as claimed in claim [1] 6 adapted for unloading of material through the base container, and wherein said first wall portion extends from said side wall at an angle ϕ_1 , wherein:

$$\phi_1 \leq 90^\circ - \phi_3 - \phi_4$$

where:

ϕ_1 - is the angle between said side wall and said first wall portion,

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$\phi 3$ - is the natural angle of repose of material to be transported in said container,
and

$\phi 4$ - is the cohesion of said material to be transported when wet.

14. (Twice Amended) A container as claimed in claim [1] 6 wherein said first and second wall portions are symmetrical.

15. (Twice Amended) A container as claimed in claim [1] 6 wherein said second wall portion is convex or concave relative to the interior of the container.

ATTACHMENT II
STATUS OF CLAIMS AS OF JANUARY 22, 2002

1. A container for transporting bulk material including two side walls, two end walls and a base, wherein at least one said side wall includes at least one internal ridge running along said at least one side wall between said end walls, and wherein said ridge is integrally formed within said at least one side wall.
2. A container for transporting bulk material including two side walls, two end walls, and a base; said side walls including a plurality of vertical reinforcing members spaced along the length of said side wall, wherein said side wall between at least one adjacent pair of said reinforcing members includes at least one internal ridge running therebetween, wherein said ridge is integrally formed within said side wall.
3. A container as claimed in claim 2 further including at least one internal ridge between each of said reinforcing members.
4. (Amended) A container as claimed in claim 2 including additional reinforcement aligned along said internal ridge between each of said reinforcing members.
5. (Amended) A container as claimed in claim 2, further including at least one internal ridge between on said end wall and a first reinforcing member.
6. (Amended) A container as claimed in claim 1 wherein said ridge includes a first wall portion angled from said wall towards the interior of said container, and a second wall portion rejoining said first wall portion to said wall.
7. (Amended) A container as claimed in claim 1, adapted for unloading of material through the base of the container, wherein said ridge includes a first wall portion angled from said wall away from the interior of said container, and a second wall portion rejoining said first wall portion to said wall.
8. (Amended) A container as claimed in claim 6 wherein the angle of said first wall portion is in the direction of flow during unloading of the material to be transported.
9. (Amended) A container as claimed in claim 1, wherein said internal ridge includes a first wall portion deflected inwardly a progressively increased degree relative to the intersection of said side wall and said base, and a second wall portion extending from

said first wall portion and being deflected outwardly a progressively decreased degree relative to the intersection of said side wall and said base.

10. (Twice Amended) A container as claimed in claim 6 wherein said first wall portion extends from said side wall at an angle ϕ_1 , wherein:

$$\phi_1 \leq \phi_2 - \phi_3 - 90^\circ$$

where:

ϕ_1 - is the angle between said side wall and said first wall portion,

ϕ_2 - is the angle said container is rotated during unloading of said container, and

ϕ_3 - is the natural angle of repose of material to be transported in said container.

11. (Twice Amended) A container as claimed in claim 6 wherein said first wall portion extends from said side wall at an angle ϕ_1 , wherein:

$$\phi_1 \leq \phi_2 - \phi_3 - \phi_4 - 90^\circ$$

where:

ϕ_1 - is the angle between said side wall and said first wall portion,

ϕ_2 - is the angle said container is rotated during unloading of said container,

ϕ_3 - is the natural angle of repose of material to be transported in said container,

and

ϕ_4 - is the cohesion of said material to be transported when wet.

12. (Twice Amended) A container as claimed in claim 6 adapted for unloading of material through the base of the container, and wherein said first wall portion extends from said side wall at an angle ϕ_1 , wherein:

$$\phi_1 \leq 90^\circ - \phi_3$$

ϕ_1 - is the angle between said side wall and said first wall portion, and

ϕ_3 - is the natural angle of repose of material to be transported in said container.

13. (Twice Amended) A container as claimed in claim 6 adapted for unloading of material through the base container, and wherein said first wall portion extends from said side wall at an angle ϕ_1 , wherein:

$$\phi_1 \leq 90^\circ - \phi_3 - \phi_4$$

where:

ϕ_1 - is the angle between said side wall and said first wall portion,

$\phi 3$ - is the natural angle of repose of material to be transported in said container,
and

$\phi 4$ - is the cohesion of said material to be transported when wet.

14. (Twice Amended) A container as claimed in claim 6 wherein said first and second wall portions are symmetrical.

15. (Twice Amended) A container as claimed in claim 6 wherein said second wall portion is convex or concave relative to the interior of the container.

16. (Amended) A container as claimed in claim 6, wherein said first wall portion is aligned with the flow of material during unloading of said container.

17. (Amended) A container as claimed in claim 6, wherein said ridge further includes a third wall portion between said first wall portion and said second wall portion.

18. A container as claimed in claim 17 wherein said third wall portion is concave.

19. A container as claimed in claim 17 wherein said third wall portion is flat or straight.

20. A container as claimed in claim 19 wherein said third wall portion is parallel to said side wall.

21. A container as claimed in claim 19 wherein said third wall portion is angled relative to said side wall.

22. (Amended) A container as claimed in claim 17 wherein said first wall portion is equal to or longer than said third wall portion.

23. A container as claimed in claim 6, wherein at least one said side wall further includes a partial ridge along the top or rim of said at least one side wall, said partial ridge being formed by a fourth wall portion, said fourth wall portion being equivalent to said first wall portion.

24. A container as claimed in claim 23, wherein said fourth wall portion is of equal length to said first wall portion.

25. (Amended) A container as claimed in claim 23 wherein said partial ridge further includes a strengthening member along the periphery of said fourth wall portion, said strengthening member forming the rim of said container.

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26. A container as claimed in claim 25, wherein said strengthening member is integrally formed within said at least one side wall.

27. (Amended) A container as claimed in claim 1 wherein said base of said container includes at least one ridge extending substantially along the length of said base.

28. A container as claimed in claim 27 wherein said at least one ridge along said base is located about wheel or track positions of a support for said container.

30. (Amended) A container as claimed in claim 1 for use in transportation of bulky material by road.

31. (Amended) A container as claimed in claim 1 for use in transportation of bulk material by rail.